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Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" When the information asked for is not supplied, how are we to put supplementary questions? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Such an answer is quite parliamentary. In other Parliaments also, such answers are given."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that when N.G.O.s go to hospitals along with other people for treatment as out-patients, they are given prescriptions of the same kind but when subsequently it is learnt that they are non-gazetted Government servants, the original prescriptions are struck out and fresh prescriptions are given recommending only medicines of very low value and that discrimination is shown between them and the public? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" The hon. Member is making a general statement. I find that there is a general tendency among the N.G.O.s to ask for special and expensive drugs and the doctors prescribe such expensive drugs in order to please the patients with the result that the cost of the concessions given to them is mounting up time after time."

Extension of the weir of the Pakkam tank, South Arcot district.

*60 *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government are considering any proposal to extend the weir of Pakkam Public Works Department tank in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" The question of extending the weir of the tank is now under examination by the local officers."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Every time when the tank is full as a result of rains, there is a breach on account of the insufficiency of the weir. Taking into consideration the extent of the catchment area, the capacity, run through and the ayacut to be fed, in view of the fact that the Government are incurring loss every year as a result of breach, may I know why the Public Works Department did not care to look into this matter at all? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" Sir, I have already stated that the question is under examination by the local officers who have felt the need for extending the weir. The breaches have been there in the past. The officers are now actively considering the extension of the weir."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, what is the latest communication regarding this matter from that place? "

The Hon. Raja Sri SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" It is said that since the tank breached

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twice, it is now proposed, with a view to avoid breaches, to extend the weir of the tank. That is all that has been mentioned. Perhaps they will be contemplating the execution of this work within this year.''

First-aid boxes in Government buses.

10-50 a.m. * 61 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a conductor of the State Transport met with any accident in the bus starting from Tyagarayanagar during the last week of December 1953; and

(*b*) whether it is a fact that there was no first-aid medicine in the first-aid box either in that bus or in any other bus that passed through the place of accident at the time of accident?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) Yes, the conductor of a Government bus plying between Thyagarayanagar and Ice House Road met with an accident on 28th December 1953.

" (*b*) As there are a large number of hospitals and dispensaries in Madras City, provision of first-aid kits in Government buses was not considered necessary. However in view of the fact that drivers and conductors have been given training in ' first-aid ', the question whether all buses should be equipped with first-aid boxes is being examined.''

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" Sir, when private operators are required to have first-aid boxes in their buses, why are the Government not having first-aid boxes in their buses? ''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Under rule 160-H of the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, read with section 48 of the Motor Vehicles Act, the Regional Transport Authority prescribes the carrying of first-aid equipment as a condition of the permit after 1st July 1953. But the question does not arise in the case of Government Transport buses as no such provision has been imposed as a condition of permit or otherwise under section 42 (3) of the Motor Vehicles Act. Therefore, there is no legal obligation whatever on the part of Government buses to carry first-aid boxes. But I am convinced that there is the moral obligation. Therefore, I am issuing orders that all Government buses should carry first-aid boxes.''

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have given compensation to the conductor who sustained injuries while he was on duty? ''

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may give notice of a separate question.''

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I will answer the question, Sir.''

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Mr. SPEAKER :—" I have no objection to the Hon. Minister answering the question. But then further supplementaries will arise with the preamble 'Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister', and so on."

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I bow to your ruling, Sir."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether all the buses belonging to the Government Transport running in the City of Madras are carrying just empty boxes with the name 'first aid boxes' painted upon them? Are there any medicines or equipment that are required for first aid inside the boxes, or are they only empty boxes just to cheat the public?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" At present, I am afraid, these boxes do not contain first aid equipment. As I said, we are not legally bound to carry it. But I am morally convinced, and I shall agree to pass orders that these boxes should contain first aid materials."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" Are the Government aware that the so-called first aid classes for conductors conducted in the mofussal are not properly conducted, that these conductors, even after passing their examinations, are ignorant of the elements of first aid, that the doctors who sign these certificates do not conduct the classes, and that it all means only a payment of Re. 1 to the St. John Ambulance? Will the Government please conduct an enquiry?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, as rules stand at present, the conductors, before they get certificates, have to undergo a certain number of classes, at the end of which they have got to be examined by a medical officer or person appointed for the purpose by the St. John Ambulance. I am not aware of the allegations of the hon. Member. If he gives specific instances where defaults have taken place, I will look into them. One other point I wish to say, with your permission, Sir. I am not quite sure whether the first aid boxes in Government buses do not contain medicines. I have not yet examined them, and I shall look into the matter."

Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" First aid box களில் மருந்தில்லாமல் காலியாக வைத்துக்கொண்டு Bus conductor களை First aid test pass செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவு பிறந்தது நியாயமா ? இப்பொழுது அப்படி பாஸ்செய்வது அவசியமில்லையென்று அவா உத்தரவை ரத்து செய்வார்களா ?"

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, as I have already said, I am not sure whether these boxes contain medicines or not. I shall have the matter looked into. As I said before, after all the conductors are given training in first aid, the buses will carry boxes with necessary medicines and appliances."

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SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, after these conductors and drivers pass these first aid tests, will there be an increase in their salaries because of their acquiring this prescribed qualification? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" It is one of the suggestions that conductors should know first aid in the service of humanity. Knowledge desired or acquired in the service of humanity need not necessarily mean that we should pay more for it."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" What is the accident traced to, and to what extent are the Government, as proprietors of the bus, responsible? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, on 28th December 1953, Sri Santharaj Isiah, a conductor in the Government Bus Service, who was travelling on the footboard of the Government Bus No. MSP 7942 plying between Thyagarayanagar and Ice House, fell down from the moving bus near Pithapuram Bus-stop on Eldam's Road and sustained minor injuries. According to the conductor's own statement, he fainted in the bus and slipped. The driver of that bus took the conductor to a nearby house where he was given first aid and subsequently he was given medical treatment at the Government Royapetta Hospital as an out-patient. The conductor has now completely recovered and is now on duty."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, while answering a supplementary question put by me, the Hon. Minister said in plain, clear, Her Majesty the Queen's English, that the first aid boxes that were inside the Government transport buses did not contain any medicine and they were empty. Later, he modified the statement saying that he was not sure. I may point out to him that no buses contain first aid equipment. An examination of any Government bus at this moment will reveal this. I should not be misunderstood that I am levelling a charge against the Government. It is the responsibility of the Government to bear with my allegation."

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Sir, as I have said, if the Government buses do not contain any first aid equipment, it is because legally there is nothing wrong in it. At the present moment, Government buses are exempted from the operation of the rule which says that buses must carry first aid boxes. But, as I said, from the humanitarian point of view, I shall have the matter examined."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" Sir, in answer to a supplementary question, the Hon. Minister was pleased to state that there was no legal obligation on the part of the Government to provide their buses with first aid boxes, whereas there was the obligation on private operators to have first aid boxes in their buses. May I know on what basis this distinction is made? "